

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 1848

To provide for disclosure of the bumper impact capability of certain passenger motor vehicles and to require a 5-mile-per-hour bumper standard for such vehicles.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 10 (legislative day, JANUARY 25), 1994

Mr. DANFORTH (for himself and Mr. BRYAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To provide for disclosure of the bumper impact capability of certain passenger motor vehicles and to require a 5-mile-per-hour bumper standard for such vehicles.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Automobile and
5 Minivan Bumper Improvement Act of 1994”.

6 **SEC. 2. DISCLOSURE OF BUMPER IMPACT CAPABILITY.**

7 The Motor Vehicle Information and Cost Savings Act
8 (15 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.) is amended by inserting imme-
9 diately after section 102 the following new subsection:

1 “DISCLOSURE OF BUMPER IMPACT CAPABILITY

2 “SEC. 102A. (a) The Secretary shall promulgate, in
3 accordance with the provisions of this section, a regulation
4 establishing bumper system labeling requirements for pas-
5 senger motor vehicles—

6 “(1) manufactured for model years beginning
7 more than 180 days after the date such regulation
8 is promulgated, as provided in subsection (c)(2); and

9 “(2) constructed without special features for oc-
10 casional off-road operation.

11 “(b)(1) The regulation promulgated under this sec-
12 tion shall provide that, before any such passenger motor
13 vehicle is offered for sale, the manufacturer shall affix a
14 label to such vehicle, in a format prescribed in such regula-
15 tion, disclosing an impact speed at which the manufac-
16 turer represents that the vehicle meets the applicable dam-
17 age criteria.

18 “(2) For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘appli-
19 cable damage criteria’ means the damage criteria applica-
20 ble under the bumper standard set forth in part 581 of
21 title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, or under a successor
22 bumper standard.

23 “(c)(1) Not later than 90 days after the date of en-
24 actment of this section, the Secretary shall publish in the

1 Federal Register a proposed initial regulation under this
2 section.

3 “(2) Not later than 180 days after such date of en-
4 actment, the Secretary shall promulgate a final initial reg-
5 ulation under this section.

6 “(d) The Secretary may allow a manufacturer to
7 comply with the labeling requirements described in sub-
8 section (b) by permitting such manufacturer to make the
9 required bumper system impact speed disclosure on the
10 label required by section 506 of this Act or on the label
11 required by section 3 of the Automobile Information Dis-
12 closure Act (15 U.S.C. 1232).

13 “(e) The regulation promulgated under this section
14 shall provide that the information disclosed under this sec-
15 tion be provided to the Secretary at the beginning of the
16 model year for the model involved. As soon as practicable
17 after receiving such information, the Secretary shall fur-
18 nish and distribute to the public such information in a
19 simple and readily understandable form in order to facili-
20 tate comparison among the various types of passenger
21 motor vehicles. The Secretary may by rule require auto-
22 mobile dealers to distribute to prospective purchasers any
23 information compiled pursuant to this Secretary.”.

1 **SEC. 3. BUMPER STANDARD FOR CERTAIN PASSENGER**
2 **MOTOR VEHICLES.**

3 (a) AMENDMENT OF BUMPER STANDARD.—Not later
4 than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the
5 Secretary of Transportation shall amend the bumper
6 standard published as part 581 of title 49, Code of Fed-
7 eral Regulations, to ensure that such standard is identical
8 to the bumper standard under such part 581 that was in
9 effect on January 1, 1982. The amendment standard shall
10 apply to all passenger motor vehicles—

11 (1) manufactured after September 1, 1994; and

12 (2) constructed without special features for oc-
13 casional off-road operation.

14 (b) MORE STRINGENT BUMPER STANDARDS NOT
15 AFFECTED.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to
16 prohibit the Secretary of Transportation from requiring
17 under such part 581 that passenger motor vehicle bump-
18 ers be capable of resisting impact speeds higher than those
19 specified in the bumper standard in effect under such part
20 581 on January 1, 1982.

21 (c) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the
22 term “passenger motor vehicle” has the meaning given
23 that term in section 2 of the Motor Vehicle Information
24 and Cost Savings Act (15 U.S.C. 1901).

○